



## can you help us find a Wildlife Warden for your Parish?



The Wildlife Warden Scheme is part of Action on Climate in Teignbridge, which was set up in 2019 to support Teignbridge's Councils and communities as they tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergencies.

The scheme only started in October 2020, and already we have 56 Wildlife Wardens working in 32 of Teignbridge's 54 Parishes – **but as yet, there aren't any in your Parish**. We would really appreciate your help in finding one, or more, Wildlife Wardens who can help your local nature and get your community involved!

In case you aren't aware of ACT's work, here are the ACT vision and mission ( [ACT mission](#) ).

### **ACT's Vision:**

Teignbridge is carbon neutral, with communities, economies and a natural environment that are sustainable, resilient and healthy.

### **ACT's Mission:**

To encourage and support Teignbridge District Council, town and parish councils, community groups, organisations and residents in the district to act together to:

1. Achieve carbon neutrality in Teignbridge by 2025.
2. Ensure Climate and Ecological Emergency declarations are reflected in all national and local government policies, decisions and activities.
3. Reduce and reverse the speed and effects of climate change and pollution.
4. Develop more sustainable lifestyles to regenerate and maintain biodiversity and ecosystems.

**ACT has several sub-groups**, dealing with various different aspects of the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, of which **the Ecology Group** is just one. The Ecology Group decided that the best way to achieve its objectives was by establishing a **Wildlife Warden Scheme** and encouraging communities to help their local nature.

### **Here is some information about Wildlife Wardens:**

- Wildlife Wardens help support, protect and increase their Parish's wildlife and improve its chances of surviving the ecological and climate emergencies that we are facing.
- Wildlife Wardens need to love wildlife but don't need any specialist knowledge - the Wildlife Warden Scheme will provide training and support.
- Having Wildlife Wardens will help our communities become more involved in the natural world, which is so good for our physical health, giving us all more joy and happiness.
- Our aim is for all 54 Teignbridge Parishes and Newton Abbot Wards to have at least one Wildlife Warden.

### **Who can be a Wildlife Warden and what will they do?**

Anyone who is interested in **or** knowledgeable about wildlife/ecology can become a Warden. They commit to giving their parish's wildlife several hours of their time a month, but can then choose the sort of things they do. For example, they can:

- Look out for opportunities to protect, help and increase the wildlife in their parish.
- Carry out practical work in their parish that will benefit wildlife.
- Either work in a team or undertake training to lead local volunteers on practical tasks.
- Send ACT and their own Parish Council a brief, monthly account of what they have been doing, so everyone can share successes and difficulties.

- Work with Wildlife Wardens in neighbouring parishes on joint projects.
- Help train other Wildlife Wardens using their special skills and knowledge.

We don't have funds to pay for Wildlife Wardens' expenses; however, Wardens who are ACT members will be covered by our 3<sup>rd</sup> party insurance.

**These are the main project areas:**

- A. Surveying and helping to improve and connect habitats.
- B. Promoting organic wildlife gardening
- C. Monitoring building and development within the parish and alerting ACT of any possible wildlife damage.
- D. Working with communities, schools and local groups.

**Project funding:**

Many projects will need very little funding, as trees and meadow seeds are often available free of charge. If a project needs funding, then the Wildlife Warden Coordinator and Management group will help with grant applications whenever possible.

**The Ecology Group will provide free training in these sorts of areas:**

- Basic training
- Identification of all types of wildlife
- Habitat management and connectivity: hedges, woodlands, meadows, verges, ponds
- Farming and wildlife
- Writing risk assessments – and working with them!
- Wildlife gardening
- Carrying out desktop surveys
- Monitoring planning applications and developments.
- Leading work groups.

You will soon be hearing about Devon Local Nature Partnership's '**Wild about Devon**' project, which will be providing support for community wildlife projects all over Devon – including giving special support to Parish Councils.

**ACT's Teignbridge Wildlife Warden Scheme** is, as far as we know, the first project of this sort in England; we've been working closely with **Wild about Devon** and several other interested groups and districts, because we want everyone, everywhere to enjoy and look after their local wildlife!

**Support and Funding for the Wildlife Warden Scheme:**

**We are supported by** Teignbridge District Council, Dartmoor National Park Authority, Devon Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust and Devon Biodiversity Record Centre.

**We have been given funding and support by:** Teign Energy Communities Community Fund, Councillor Jackie Hook's DCC Locality Fund, the Nineveh Trust, Devon Environment Foundation and Dartmoor National Park Authority; we extend our grateful thanks to them for this vital help. Among other things it has enabled us to appoint Flavio Ford Winkler as our coordinator; who is working to ensure good communication and record keeping as the Scheme develops. For more information, contact Flavio Winkler Ford at [flavio@actionclimateteignbridge.org](mailto:flavio@actionclimateteignbridge.org) and go to [Wildlife Warden website](#) .



[ACTion on Climate in Teignbridge](#) The Ecology Group's Wildlife Warden Scheme. Lead: Audrey Compton

ACTion on Climate in Teignbridge is a CIC registered in England, number 12278894. Its registered office is Wessenden, Thornley Drive, Teignmouth TQ14 9JH

ACT supports Teignbridge District Council, town and parish councils, community groups and residents to make the district carbon neutral, sustainable, resilient and healthy.